

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, line 4, it is not clear as to what is being defined by "either materialised...". What specifically is being defined by "materialised"? Lines 8-9, it is not clear as to what is being defined by "such as, for example...". Does the material recited within line 9 form part of the invention of claim 1? Lines 6-7, it is not clear as to what is being defined by "or similar". What would serve as a similar material to that listed in claim 1? Line 11, "the development of the circular section of the column" does not have antecedent basis within the claim. It is therefore, not clear as to what "the development of the circular section of the column" serves to define. Line 12, to what does "a plate" refer? Would this be the same plate as presented in line 8 of claim 1? Lines 13-14, it is not clear as to what is being defined by "with the help of an adhesive external tape". How does an adhesive tape "help" the invention of claim 1 and what would be the relationship of any such adhesive tape with any other elements of the claimed invention?

Claim 2, line 3, "the closing line" does not have antecedent basis within the claim. It is therefore, not clear as to what "the closing line" serves to define.

Claim 3, line 3, "the...initially flat plate" does not have antecedent basis within the claim. It is therefore, not clear as to what "the...initially flat plate" serves to define.

Claim 4, lines 2-3, "the...initially flat plate" does not have antecedent basis within the claim. It is therefore, not clear as to what "the...initially flat plate" serves to define.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis '437 in view of either of Anderson et al. '090 and Walker et al. '173.

Ellis discloses the claims form column with the exception of a helicoidal band of fiberglass mesh. However, each of Anderson et al. and Walker et al. teach application of a helicoidal band of fiberglass mesh to strengthen a respective tubular member. Therefore, to have provided the tubular form of Ellis with a helicoidal band of fiberglass mesh to strengthen tubular form member 12 would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made as taught by either of Anderson et al. and Walker et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Safavi whose telephone number is (571) 272-7046. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. Safavi/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3637

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